

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention is directed to the identification of compounds in a compound library which can mediate the biological activity of a target receptor protein, even when the ligands which mediate that activity through binding to that receptor are not already known.

The method of the invention includes the following three steps:

(1) Screen a first combinatorial library for members binding to the target protein (TP) and hence capable of use as surrogates for the unknown ligand in steps (2) and (3).

(2) Screen a second library, for compounds which inhibit the binding of one or more surrogates from step (1) to TP, and, optionally.

(3) Determine whether the inhibitory compound mediates the biological activity of the said TP.

The first library is composed of peptides, peptoids and/or nucleic acids, and the second is not.